

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of detecting a position of a lead of an electric component which additionally includes a body from which the lead extends, the method including the steps of illuminating a lengthwise limited portion of the lead, with a light incident thereto in a direction substantially perpendicular to a lengthwise direction of the lead, taking an image of the lead, on a side of a free end of the lead, in a direction parallel to the lengthwise direction of the lead, and detecting the position of the lead by processing image data representing the taken image.